edible oilseeds in the country during last few years, the gap between demand and supply of edible oils has narrowed down significantly.

(b) and (c) The present gap in the demand and supply is mainly due to several factors like continuous rise in the demand for edible oils owing to incremental population, limited prospects for increasing edible oilseeds production in short run and constraint of foreign exchange for importing higher quantities of edible oils by the Government. However, the import of edible oils being under OGL, adequate quantity of edible oils have been imported during the last two years. These imports and increased production of edible oilseeds in the country have sobering effect on the prices of edible oils during recent years.

Trade Relations with Pakistan

179. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PAT-NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the expansion of trade relation with Pakistan;

(b) if so, the areas in which the Indo-Pak trade relation was established earlier;

(c) the new areas and the existing areas in which Indo-Pak trade is proposed to be expanded;

(d) the programme drawn up thereon; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) (a) to (e) Trade between India and Pakistan is hampered by Pakistan Government's restrictive policy on imports from India. Pakistan has not accorded Most-Favourcd-Nation status to India in contravention of its GATT/WTO obligations; instead it currently allows imports from India only against a unilateral list of 573 items, many of which do not have a real export potential from India. Under the circumstances, it is not feasible -to formulate a promotion strategy for trade with Pakistan, even if there is good scope. The Government of India have made a formal demarche to the Pakistan Government about grant of MFN status, response to which is awaited.

ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में अस्पृश्यता

180. श्री अजीत जोगी:
श्री एस०एस०सुरेजवाला:

क्या कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि देश के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में अभी भी बड़े पैमाने पर अस्पृश्यता की प्रथा व्याप्त है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है; और

(ग) इस संबंध में क्या सुधारात्मक उपाय किए गए हैं/अथवा किए जाने का प्रस्ताव है?

कल्याण मंत्री (श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया): (क) और (ख) 1992 से 1994 तक की अवधि के दौरान अरुणाचल प्रदेश, असम, मेघालय, मणिपुर, मिजोरम, नागालैंड, त्रिपुरा, सिक्किम और पश्चिम बंगाल राज्य सरकारों तथा अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह, दमन और दीव, दादर और नगर हवेली तथा लक्षद्वीप संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासनों ने सिविल अधिकार संरक्षण अधिनियम, 1955 के अंतर्गत अस्पृश्यता से संबंधित किसी आपराधिक मामले की रिपोर्ट नहीं दी है। तथापि, शेष राज्यों और संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों से ऐसे अपराधों की सूचना प्राप्त हुई है और यह चिन्ता का विषय है। उत्तर प्रदेश और उड़ीसा में किए गए नमूना मूल्यांकन अध्ययनों से पता चलता है कि अस्पृश्यता की प्रथा शहरी क्षेत्रों की तुलना में ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में अधिक प्रचलित है।

(ग) सिविल अधिकार संरक्षण अधिनियम के प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन के लिए राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों द्वारा शुरू किए गए उपायों के लिए एक केन्द्र प्रायोजित योजना के अंतर्गत राज्य सरकारों को 50:50 के आधार पर संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों के मामले में 100% केन्द्रीय सहायता प्रदान की जाती है। इनमें अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ कानूनी सहायता, अभियोगों को चलाने अथवा उनका पर्यवेक्षण करने के लिए अधिकारियों की नियुक्ति तथा विशेष न्यायालयों की स्थापना सहित समुचित सुविधाओं का प्रावधान शामिल हो सकता है। आठवीं योजना अवधि के दौरान, इस उद्देश्य के लिए प्रदान की गई केन्द्रीय

सहायता की राशि 1992-93 में 2.165 करोड़ रुपए के मुकाबले बढ़ाकर 1995-96 में 5.594 करोड़ रुपए कर दी गई है। इसके अतिरिक्त, अनन्य विशेष सचल न्यायालयों की अनिवार्य स्थापना के लिए सिविल अधिकार संरक्षण अधिनियम में संशोधन संबंधी एक प्रस्ताव विचाराधीन है।

Wheat Export

181 SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether PHD Chamber of Commerce has alleged that export rate of wheat in the country has increased by one percent despite GATT and standardisation of agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the factual position in this regard;

(c) whether PHD Chamber of Commerce has found official machinery totally responsible for such situation;

(d) whether Government propose to take some action in the matter to ensure to enhance wheat export in future; and

(e) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) These parts relate to a matter which is not primarily the concern of the Govt, of India and is about statements purported to have been made by PHD Chamber of Commerce.

(d) and (e) Under the EXIM POLICY export of wheat is allowed subject to quantitative ceilings released from time to time, keeping in view the production trends, Govt. Procurement, requirements for Public Distribution System etc. Export of wheat from the country also depends on the overall world production and prevailing prices in the international market.

Export Promotion Parks

182. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether export promotion parks have been set up in some States and Territories of country;

(b) if so, their locations with area under their occupation including export activity of each;

(c) whether such parks have increased the financial resources of country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for spending huge amount of such parks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) So far 18 State Governments have proposed setting up of Export Promotion Industrial Parks and these have been approved for Central assistance. The name of the State Government, location of the park and its area are given in the Statement *(See* below). All the 18 parks are under development and export activity has not yet commenced.

(c) to (e) When operational these parks arc expected to augment the industrial infrastructure for export oriented produc tion in the country.